

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
December 21, 2011

PRESENT

Jim Eardley, Washington County Commission
Jerry Lewis, UDOT Commissioner
Daniel McArthur, Mayor, St. George City
Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG
Gloria Shakespeare, St. George City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Matt Ence, Santa Clara City
Myron Lee, Five County AOG
Larry Bulloch, St. George City Public Works Director
Marreen Casper, Sen. Hatch
Ellen Schunk, Sen. Lee
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Nathan Lee, UDOT
Ron Whitehead, Washington County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. At the last meeting, there was no quorum, so the approval of several sets of minutes will be accomplished today.

MINUTES

Approval of August 17, 2011, October 19, 2011, and November 16, 2011, minutes:

Ron Whitehead asked that the following change be made to the August 17 minutes:

On page 3, line 10, "400-foot number" should be changed to read
"100-foot number."

MOTION: Motion by Matt Ence to Approve the Minutes of August 17, October 19, and November 16, 2011, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2012

Chairman Eardley requested to move this item to the end of the meeting. There was no

objection.

b. Ratification of TIP as recommended by DTAC

Myron Lee distributed the "Dixie MPO Transportation Improvement Plan 12-8-11 Draft" document. He said that the MPO had a one million dollar unobligated amount earlier in the year and moved the funding from STIP year 2015 back into STIP years 2 and 3 to allow for the East Dixie Drive and Washington Fields Road projects. Everything highlighted in yellow on the handout is new. Money was taken from the Old Highway 91 project and moved to the Bluff Street project at the top of the page. They also added money to the project in 2014 and some in 2016. Two new projects have been added at the bottom: Milepost 8 rehabilitation and pedestrian crossing and Washington Fields Road Phase II. That project will take a section of Washington Fields Road and widen it to five lanes.

Mike Shaw drew the proposed road projects on the whiteboard and explained the various routes, many of which are important connections.

Chairman Eardley added that yesterday, the Council of Governments (COG) voted to purchase a 21-acre parcel of property along SR-9 east of the lagoons where the Southern Corridor route will ultimately terminate. The cost was approximately nine hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$940,000); UDOT will return the funds to the COG upon the sale of the property. Nathan Lee added that the State owns pieces of property in the Elam Valley area, including a section that doesn't have access (the piece for which the COG authorized purchase). In order for that piece to be sold, it would be necessary for it to be connected to the other pieces owned by UDOT.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor McArthur to Ratify the Dixie MPO TIP, as recommended by the DTAC. Motion seconded by Matt Ence and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Council Structure and Future Participation

Ken Sizemore wanted the group to understand the structure of DTEC in terms of its eight (8) voting members: St. George City has three elected official positions; one elected official position from Santa Clara, Ivins, and Washington Cities; one County Commission representative; and one Transportation Commission representative. He said that the city councils need to make determinations as to which persons will fill these positions.

Additionally, at the council level, each government entity may select an alternate who is a duly appointed or elected member of the governing body when the primary member is not available. The alternate will have the same voting power and duties as the primary member. Mayor McArthur asked whether the alternate has to be the same person each time, and Mr. Sizemore said that it can be a different person. He asked that, when each council determines the appointee, the MPO be notified so that an accurate roster may be kept up to date.

b. Origin and Destination Study Update

Curt Hutchings said that the Origin and Destination Study ties closely to the transportation models used to gauge trips to and from home and other locations. These models are used to plan future road projects. There is a portion of this household survey called "Stated Preferences," which support some of the Vision Dixie principles for future growth. Nine hundred of these surveys will be distributed county-wide from February through August, along with two hundred and fifty statewide surveys. Additionally, the opinions of all college students will be solicited.

c. Welcome Center Update

Mr. Sizemore said that he and his staff received a presentation yesterday from Dana Meier of UDOT concerning the status of the Welcome Center. Deliberations are ongoing, with most local officials supporting leaving the Welcome Center somewhere at the Dixie Center. The UDOT's intent is to install signage to direct people off the new interchange toward the Dixie Center. The signage, which will be fairly large, is nearly finished and will be installed as part of the final construction of the interchange. The next step is to decide the specific location at the Dixie Center for the Welcome Center. One major concern is dedicated parking for a variety of vehicles, including RVs and buses. The City of St. George is also designing a trailhead in conjunction with the Welcome Center.

Ron Whitehead asked whether there would be signs for the Dixie Center itself, along with signs for the Welcome Center, and Chairman Eardley and Mayor McArthur said that the issue of signage is still being discussed.

Nathan Lee said that a sign is being placed under the "Welcome to Utah" sign for the Welcome Center, because space is at a premium.

Mr. Sizemore advocated for Maxine, who, along with her staff, runs the current Welcome Center in uncomfortable surroundings. She has been negotiating with the

museum staff in attempting to place blinds or shades on the windows, but has met with no success. UDOT has been negotiating with the Rosenbruch family for a lease agreement but is having problems finding authorization in the bylaws for such a contract. There are three entities involved: the City of St. George, the County, and the WCIA Board.

d. East Dixie Drive Status Report

Larry Bulloch said that the East Dixie Drive widens the road from the Dixie interchange going east to five lanes and extends it to Riverside Drive. It is now designed and ready to bid. Two problems are: right-of-way and environmental. Mayor McArthur thought the right-of-way had been approved, on the west side of the street. Mr. Bulloch said that the right-of-way has been appraised and a purchase agreement negotiated. There is enough land on Riverside Drive going eastbound to get a right turn lane in there. So that problem is essentially solved.

The environmental problem, however, is not solved. Fish & Wildlife wants to go into "formal consultation" in order to widen an existing road, stating that the area is of "prime importance" because of the presence of the willow flycatcher. An appeal of that decision is being contemplated.

e. Transportation Expo: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Myron Lee said that the MPO plans to join with St. George City at this Transportation Expo in a structure similar to that of last year. The intent is to attract as many people within the region as possible who has an interest in transportation issues. There will displays on each of the projects currently in process. In the past, attendance has been between 450 and 800 people, and it is an opportunity for people to see how all the projects intertwine countywide. Mayor McArthur suggested contacting the city councils to advertise the Expo.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Eardley wanted to discuss the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair for the next two-year term. He has appreciated the opportunity to serve in that capacity, with Matt Ence serving as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor McArthur to Retain the Current Chair (James J. Eardley) and Vice Chair (Matt Ence) for another Two-Year Term.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried by unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, in the Upstairs Conference Room of the Washington County Administration Building located at 197 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, Utah, at 12:00 p.m.

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.